

Exploring Habitats with Bea the Bee

Learning objective: To identify and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of plants and animals.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below. Think about how living things are suited to their environments.

A habitat is a natural home for a living thing, providing everything it needs to survive: food, water, air, and shelter. Bea the honeybee knows that every environment is unique. For example, a pond habitat is full of life. Reeds provide shelter for dragonflies, while lily pads offer a platform for frogs to catch insects. The water provides a cool environment for fish to swim and breathe through their gills.

In contrast, a woodland habitat is very different. Here, squirrels find safety in the high branches of oak trees, and foxes dig dens in the cool, dark earth. Bea explains that animals have special 'adaptations'—features that help them live in their specific home. A duck has webbed feet for paddling in water, while a hedgehog has sharp spines to protect itself from predators in the undergrowth. If a habitat changes, such as through pollution or weather, it can become difficult for these creatures to find what they need. Protecting our local habitats is essential to ensure that all living things continue to thrive safely in their homes.

Word bank: habitat · environment · adaptation · shelter · organism · ecosystem

1. According to the text, what are the four basic needs that a habitat must provide for a living thing? (2 marks)

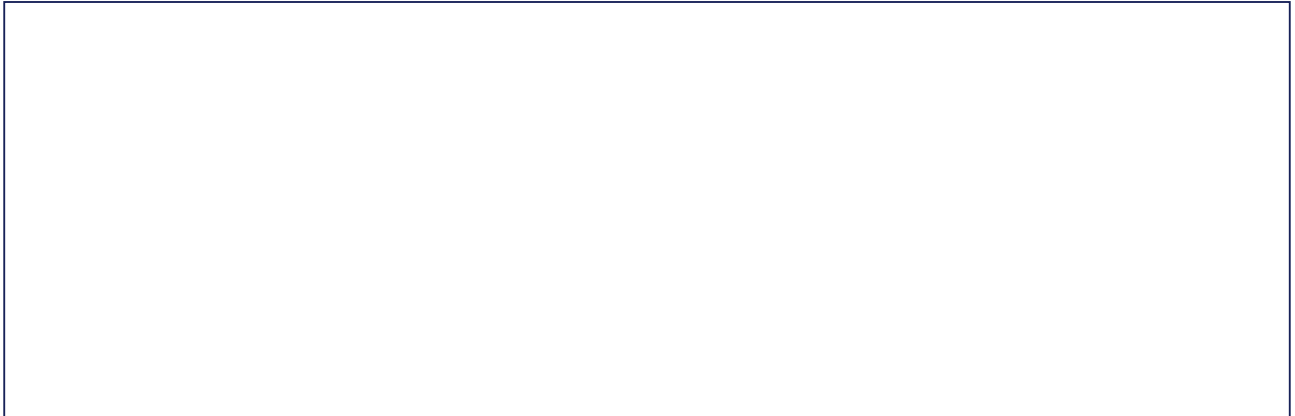
2. Name two animals mentioned in the text and describe one way they are adapted to their habitat. (2 marks)

3. Why might a duck find it difficult to survive if its pond habitat dried up? (2 marks)

4. Based on the text, why is it important for humans to look after natural habitats? (2 marks)

5. Do you think a squirrel would be able to live successfully in a pond habitat? Explain your reasoning using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw your own imaginary habitat. Include at least one animal and one plant, and label one 'adaptation' that helps the animal live there.



Extension challenge: Research a polar bear or a camel. Write a short paragraph explaining how its body is adapted to survive in its extreme habitat.